

Abstract 330

TITLE: STD Prevention is HIV Prevention: Making the Sexual Health Connection in a Juvenile Detention Center

AUTHORS: Merry Krempasky, Debbie Coleman and Ken Dorian, Columbus Health Department, Columbus, Ohio

BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES: Reaching youth at high-risk for HIV/STDs is a major sexual health priority. Youth in juvenile detention centers (JDC) report a high level of sexual activity and do not routinely access HIV/STD services. A program was established to incorporate HIV/STD screening at JDC by using urine LCR testing to determine the need for ongoing services based upon youth acceptance, positivity rates, ability to treat and to provide appropriate referrals.

METHODS: Since 1996 the Columbus Health Department (CHD) has provided HIV education and testing opportunities to JDC. In October 1997, STD education and noninvasive urine testing was also offered as a pilot project to the JDC youth. The youth actually related to the combination of HIV/STD education and testing more enthusiastically than to the HIV information by itself. Currently, CHD offers HIV/STD education and testing two times monthly. Complete sexual health profile and demographic information is taken from each person receiving education and testing. The program returns one week later to provide results and treatment.

RESULTS: From 1996 until October 1997, the program provided group HIV education 600 youth with 300 of those opting for HIV testing. Since integrating the HIV JDC program, 763 youth have received one to one education and testing for both HIV/STD and 143 (19%) were positive for chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. The prevalence of chlamydia and/or gonorrhea was 16% in males, 22% in females and 25% in the 15-16 age group. Of the youth testing positive, 79% reported no symptoms.

CONCLUSION: Integrating HIV/STD education and testing has increased awareness of sexual health issues in the adolescent population. High positivity rates for gonorrhea and chlamydia indicate youth are not practicing safer sex and are candidates for HIV exposure and transmission. STD screening and treatment in correctional settings can be a powerful HIV prevention strategy. Continued and expanded STD/HIV collaboration with JDC is warranted to provide accessible sexual health education and non-invasive screening.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Merry Krempasky

Address: 181 Washington Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43215

Telephone: (614) 645-6790

Fax: (614) 645-8873

E-mail: merryk@cmhealth.org